

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of improving airline luggage inspection by making such inspection secure yet non-intrusive, comprising:

making a special lock available to airline travelers, the special lock having a combination lock portion and having a master key lock portion, the master key lock portion for receiving a master key that can open the master key lock portion of any special lock of this type, the special lock designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage, the special lock also having indicia thereon conveying to luggage purchasers and to the luggage screening authority that the special lock is a lock that the luggage screening authority has agreed not to break, and

providing the luggage screening authority, directly or indirectly, with the access to the master key, said access being exclusive except for a manufacturer of said master key and/or a provider of the special lock to airline travelers and/or a provider of the master key to the luggage screening authority.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the master key lock portion includes a key hole on a bottom of the special lock that receives the master key.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein a step of making available to airline travelers a special lock involves mass producing the special lock and selling the special lock to the airline travelers

4. A method of improving airline luggage inspection by making such inspection secure yet non-intrusive, comprising:

making a special lock available to airline travelers, the special lock having a first lock portion and a master key lock portion, the master key lock portion for receiving a master key that can open the master key lock portion of any special lock of this type, the special lock designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage, the special lock also having indicia thereon conveying to luggage purchasers and to the luggage screening authority that the special lock is a lock that the luggage screening authority has agreed not to break, and

providing the luggage screening authority, directly or indirectly, with the access to the master key, said access being exclusive except for a manufacturer of said master key and/or a provider of the special lock to airline travelers and/or a provider of the master key to the luggage screening authority.